

# Migration Governance through Trade Mobilities

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## Main findings

International trade and migration are two important facets of an increasingly interconnected world. So far research has addressed the interplay of trade and migration *flows* – but not the links between trade and migration *policies*. Rather unnoticed from heated political migration debates, states have progressively used preferential trade agreements (PTAs) to govern different aspects of international migration, including facilitating mobility of business people, cooperation for migration control and the safeguarding of migrant rights.

Our large-N analysis of PTAs across the world and four comparative case studies find that:

- Migration clauses in trade agreements have proliferated over time (see figures). **Today, around 80 % of all newly concluded PTAs contain migration clauses.**
- Provisions facilitating mobility are driven by economic interests and internationalized industries. They occur most frequently between wealthy countries.
- The EU has used PTAs as leverage for migration control vis-à-vis neighboring countries. However, success in actual cooperation depends on other factors.
- The impact of PTAs on migration laws depends on the context: on the **EU level**, migration harmonization is facilitated by trade obligations and discourse; in **Switzerland**, PTAs provide important exceptions to a restrictive immigration system; in **Singapore**, migration law is already geared to short-term, business migrants, and so PTAs are less important.

## Added value of/for the Migration-Mobility Nexus

- Conceptual:** Provisions in PTAs are about temporary mobility yet they need to be translated in national migration laws: when is a movement classified as mobility, when as migration?
- Empirical:** How are notions of mobility vs migration translated into concrete rules in PTAs and domestic legislation; which actors promote which rules and why?
- Evaluative:** what are the implications of regulating human movement from a mobility or a migration perspective in terms of privileges and inequalities from the point of view of states, mobile individuals, employers and host societies?

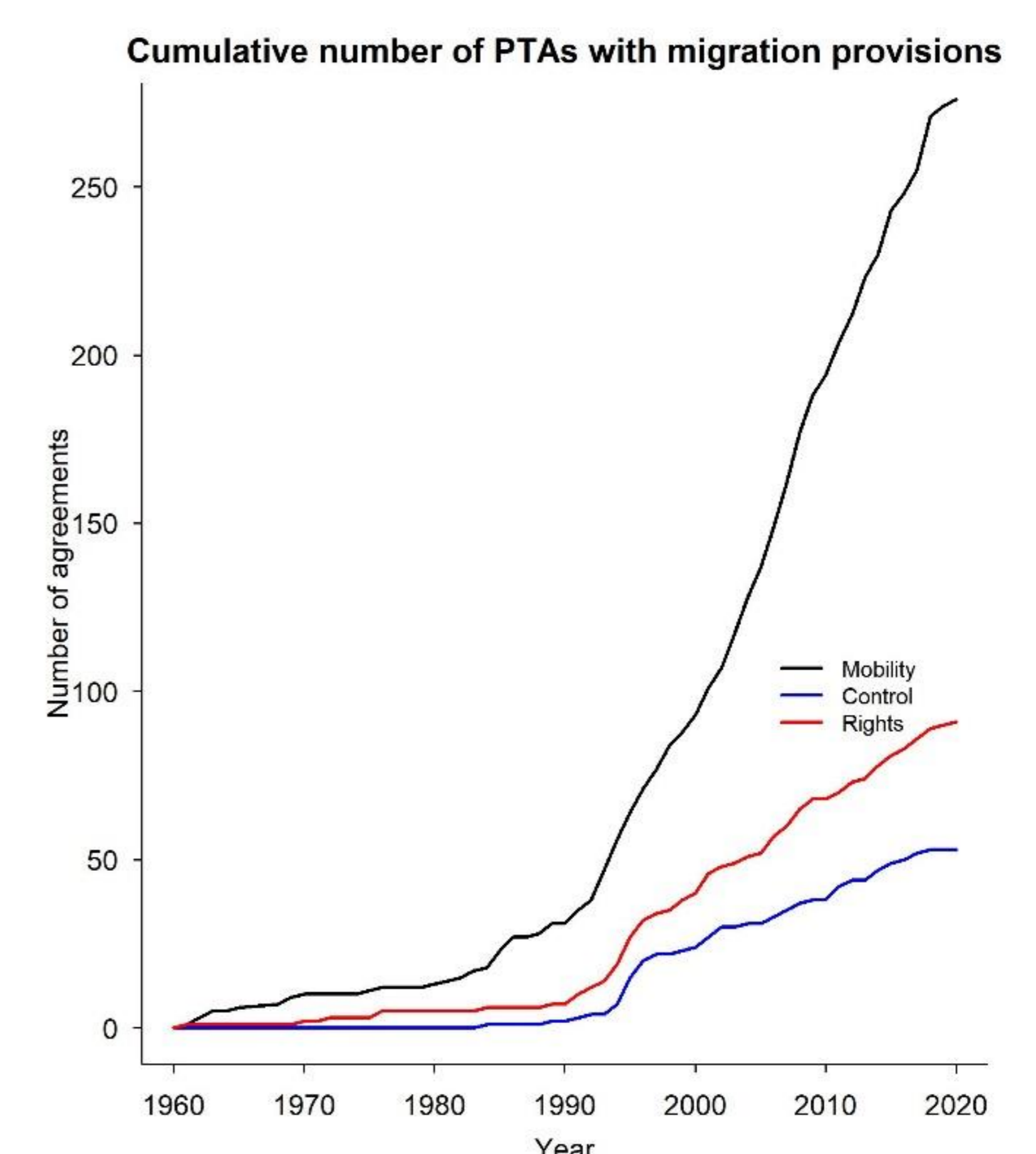
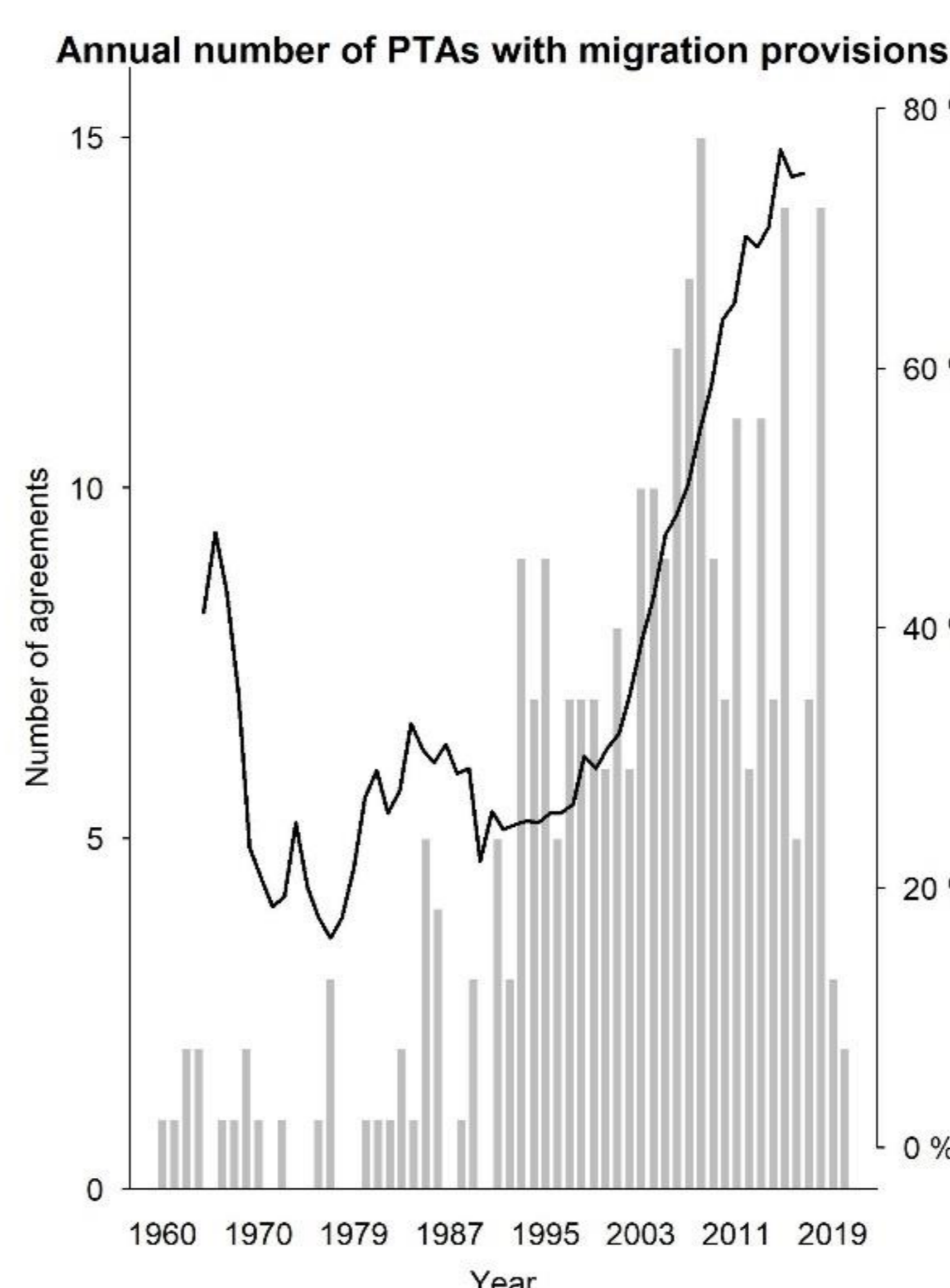
## Research Design

- Mixed method design
- Large N quantitative-comparative analysis of migration provisions in preferential trade agreements (manual coding of agreements)
- Qualitative case studies in four countries and two regional integration frameworks
- Empirical analysis combining original and secondary data

Case Study Selection	Asia	Europe
Member of a Regional Economic Community	Singapore (ASEAN)	Germany (EU)
Non-Member of a Regional Economic Community	Japan	Switzerland

## MITA

- Global coverage
- 690 trade agreements
- 1960-2020
- facilitation of international mobility
- control of irregular migration
- protection of migrant rights.



## Time-line and deliverables

**First publications:** S. Lavenex & F. Jurje (2021) Opening-up labour mobility? Rising powers' rule-making in trade agreements, *Regulation & Governance*; C. Schultz, P. Lutz & S. Simon (2021) Explaining the immigration policy mix: The relative openness towards asylum and labour migration. *European Journal of Political Research*, 60(4): 763-784; P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Between flows and places: Conceptualising the migration-mobility nexus (NCCR Working Paper) S. Lavenex & F. Jurje (2019) "The Trade-Migration Nexus from a Multilevel Perspective", in Manfred Elsig, Michael Hahn and Gabriele Spilker (eds.), *The Shifting Landscape of Global Trade Governance*, Cambridge: CUP

**Workshop:** with practitioners at the University of Geneva (Jan.2020) and with scholars at the EUI (Nov.2021) and the LSE (March 2022)

**Database:** Completion 9/2021; **Case Studies:** D/Singapore completion 5/2020, CH/Japan EU/ASEAN completion 12/2022

**Dissertation:** The trade-migration nexus in policy-making: a multi-level perspective (Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik)

### Selected Planned Publications:

- Migration Provisions in Trade Agreements: Introducing the MITA Data base (under review)
- Trading Migration? Explaining Mobility Provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements (under review)
- Trade against migrants? How the EU uses its preferential trade agreements to deter unwanted migration (under review)